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Side-Tracking Trouble

"IF employers would only give immediate consideration to any grievances reported by their employees, I believe that many strikes could be averted. To ignore these demands simply invites a strike, otherwise consideration of such matters would nip incipient strikes in the bud."

We do not know the name of the man who wrote this opening paragraph. All we know is that he is a member of the Montreal Board of Trade, and probably an employer of labor, as the words were written in answer to the Board's enquiry of its members as to their ideas on the case to be presented to the Royal Commission on Industrial Relations, in the name of the business men of the city.

Whoever he is, more power to his elbow!

He realizes that his employees have rights, that he cannot be the sole arbiter of their rights, and that it should not be essential to test them by a fight, which does injury to the workers and business, and creates a permanent atmosphere of suspicion and antagonism between employer and employee, a spirit expressive of the idea that each is going to take from the other as much as he can get, by force if necessary.

Many strikes and a great

they possess in good faith they lack in good judgment in their relations with men, women and children depending upon the business for their livelihood.

There are, nearly always, definite and substantial reasons for unrest amongst employees. Possibly the "agitator" has been the means of concentrating this unrest and bringing it to the notice of the employer, but he did not create it. The employer is in excellent position to find out the causes of this unrest, and his efforts should be directed either to removing them or taking his employees into intimate consultation on the difficulties facing him in the matter of removal. It is the best way and it is also

the easiest. The old plan of ignoring signs of unrest, sneering at or intimidating the "agitator," rolling up the sleeves to lick the stuffin' out of unions, should be put on the junk pile.

Employers must come to regard their business as a stewardship rather than as an autocracy, even a benevolent autocracy. Fine phrases, too, only irritate. There must be practical expression of them, in the daily relations of employer and employed.

Again, more power to the elbow of the man who wrote the opening paragraph. He is on the track and in good running order.



No Armistice For Them.

—Dearborn Independent.

Our OTTAWA LETTER

The dominating interest of the week at Ottawa has been the great Winnipeg strike and the proceedings of Parliament lapsed into insignificance beside it, though a slight flicker of interest was aroused by the titles debate. The facts of the Winnipeg strike are doubtless already known to your readers, and there is no need to recapitulate them at length. The primary source of the trouble was the refusal of the ironmasters of Winnipeg to pay their workers a wage adequate to meet the cost of living and to recognize the principle of collective bargaining. It was the contemptuous rejection of the latter by the employers, whose ring-leader, T. R. Deacon, who has a mediaeval outlook upon social and economic problems, which forced the calling of a city-wide sympathetic strike.

To be a good employer is, perhaps, the hardest profession of all, and Mr. Deacon and his Winnipeg friends are obviously not qualified for it. They believe that labor is a commodity to be bought and sold at the lowest market price, and would doubtless like to have their employees bound for life at a miserable wage to their establishments as the colliers in Scotland were till the latter half of the 18th century. He has long, to the writer's knowledge, proclaimed his contempt for labor and unionism, and avowed his desire to smash it.

Enemies of Society.

Yet for many years he was a prominent member of the Liberal party, a fact which helps in the realization of the causes of that body's wholesale disavowal of progressive ideas for more than a decade.

Employers who reject the principle of collective bargaining at this time of day, are real enemies of society; the report of the National Industrial Council convened by the British Government reported that all workers ought to be compelled to join trades unions and legislation to this end is in contemplation.

If ever there was an excuse for a sympathetic strike, the attitude of the Winnipeg ironmasters provided it. Moreover, the whole working class population of the city had been infuriated with rage and anxiety over the appalling increase in the cost of living and the government's failure to cope with it.

Certain factors combine to make living costs exceptionally high in Winnipeg; it is right in the centre of the country and the freight charges on commodities like coal and fruit, being higher than to any other point, make these articles correspondingly dearer. The solidarity of the workers alarmed the business community and the bourgeoisie, who banded themselves together in a Citizens Committee to fight the strike, of course maintaining the pose of desire for conciliation.

Good Anglo-Saxons.

Frantic entreaties have been coming to Ottawa by special couriers for interference by the Federal government to quell the strike. Among the type of member who at present misrepresents the country, there is very scant sympathy with labor or understanding of modern industrial problems. A general strike in their eyes must be the product of successful agitation by alien enemy Bolsheviks, and, therefore, is a terrible abomination to be suppressed instantaneously with a firm hand. Gentlemen who have not the remotest contact with the trades-union movement seem to know by a sort of divinely-inspired intuition that the whole labor movement in Canada has come under the dominance of foreign revolutionaries. It is useless to point out to them that all the leaders of the Winnipeg strike, whom the meagre reports available mention, have good Anglo-Saxon names, and it is equally futile to show that the Great War Veterans Association, who have declared their sympathy with the strike, would not have taken this step, if alien enemies had played any part in its origin.

Now here was a strike, in which impartial people all admitted labor to have an exceedingly sound case; it was one in which the Government should have taken peculiar care to preserve a strict neutrality. Yet our financial mandarins, who, after all, are the real rulers of the country, became immensely alarmed at the Winnipeg developments (they are at heart a timorous folk) and proceeded to bring to bear on the government the pressure which they are so well able to exert. Accordingly, there fared forth to Winnipeg, Senator Robertson and Mr. Arthur Meighen.

Hon. Arthur Meighen has the most completely Tory mind in the whole Cabinet. He believes firmly in the inequalities of the human race and in the doctrine that the world will go to the devil unless it entrusts the guidance of its destinies to a select class of brilliant intellects like Mr. Arthur Meighen's. He has the purely legal mind, which, because corporations and employers pay the fat fees, is always inclined to believe in the virtue and disinterestedness of corporations and employers.

It was inevitable that Messrs. Meighen and Robertson would on their arrival be subjected to tremendous pressure from the Citizens Committee to throw governmental authority on the scales in favor of the employers. The postal workers, who are affiliated to the labor organisations, were out with the rest and the Ministers have now issued an ultimatum to them, ordering them back to work on Monday on pain of losing their jobs, permanently. This act is a most outrageous piece of Prussianism and stamps the Government as irretrievably dominated by class bias. The Government knew that the postal workers had become part of the labor organisation of Canada, and therefore claimed the right to strike which civil servants in the United States and Britain have freely exercised. Under the circumstances their attitude of using their authority to act as strikebreakers is absolutely indefensible, particularly as they seem to have made not the slightest effort to bring the employers to reason. It constitutes a challenge to the whole labor world of Canada and seems likely to precipitate a general postal strike. It is also a direct incentive to violence and revolution and destroys the last shred of prestige which the Union Government possesses. It has been said that England did not love coalitions but Canada has already become so sickened of the misgovernment she has endured from this experiment in coalition that she will henceforth detest the very name. And such is the ineptitude of Parliament that the Opposition, whose duty it is to have instituted a debate on the whole Winnipeg situation, have not stirred a finger to do so. To ask a few timorous questions means nothing.

Grievance Catalogue.

Monday was occupied with the estimates of the Immigration and the Marine and Fisheries departments. Against the latter the Maritime Province members have as usual accumulated a doleful catalogue of grievances, which must be remedied ere they faced their deeply-wronged constituents. The greatest wrong that the said constituents suffer is that they may have to tolerate their present members as representatives for another two or three years.

On Tuesday Sir Thomas White announced with portentous solemnity that the Prince of Wales will visit Canada next autumn to open the new Parliament buildings. There will be a great flutter in our social dovecotes, but later events of the week were to destroy the possibility of the shower of titles which otherwise would have been the inevitable fruit of such a visit. Most of the day was given to consideration of the Bill to consolidate the Railway Act in committee and there was a lot of wrangling over technical points among the lawyers and some skilful special pleading by advocates of the interests like Messrs. E. W. Nesbitt and Morphy. Wednesday was consecrated chiefly to Mr. Rowell's Prohibition Bill which was read a second time after an amendment by Mr. Cronyn had

been negatived. A good many members took part in the discussion and the prevailing sentiment was in favor of the passage of the bill as it stood.

Forthcoming Budget.

There is great speculation over the terms of the forthcoming budget. It will probably attempt to placate the west by minor concessions, not serious enough to eliminate the champions of the manufacturers. There may be an increase in the income tax, which is still very low compared with either the British or American levy. The easy manner in which our war profiteers, who are very numerous, have been able to escape paying their proper toll to the national treasury, is nothing short of a scandal. We may struggle along with makeshift financial measures for a year or two, but sooner or later the problem of the war debt and the tax-free bonds must be faced.

In Britain, Mr. Austen Chamberlain, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, has produced a budget which is meeting with severe criticism because it refuses to face facts and makes practically no attempt at economy. No solution is in sight for alleviation of the ruinous burden of the war debt from the Government, but the Labor party and the independent Liberal group at Westminster have united in backing a proposal for a levy on capital. Their aim is to get a share of the profits accumulated during the war, and force some of the more notorious profiteers to restore to the state the enormous gains left over to them even after paying an excess profit tax of 80 per cent.

Lighter Burden.

They argue that a capital levy in the end be a lighter burden on capital than the otherwise inevitable continuance for many years of heavy income tax which will largely fall upon the generation which bore the actual burden of fighting. They contend that such a capital levy would reduce the debt to manageable proportions. The method proposed is by transfer of securities, more favorable terms being provided for the holders of war stock than of other bonds. The levy would be made after the manner of succession duties upon the amount of capital personally owned by individuals, and not upon capital held by commercial concerns or limited companies.

Beginning at a low rate upon small capitals, it would gradually work up to a maximum rate of at least 25 per cent. on the largest fortunes. The opposition groups may quite well adopt this as part of their programme for the next election, and it is hard to see how it can fail to be popular. If it comes to the forefront in English politics, the idea is certain to spread here and in view of the existence of our tax-free bonds something of the kind is badly needed to redress the gross injustice of our war taxation.

Titles Laid to Rest.

Thursday was the funeral of titles in Canada. It will be remembered that Sir Robert Borden, by making the matter a party question, salvag-

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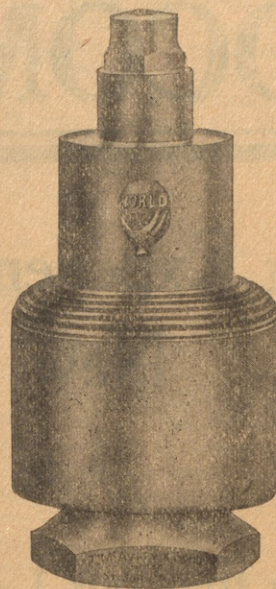
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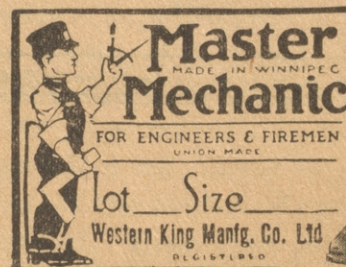
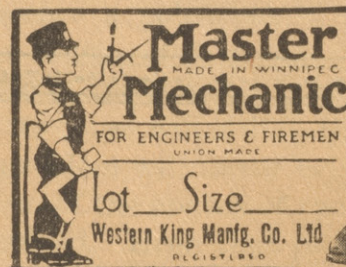
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To advocate the abolition of property qualifications for the franchise or for election to public office; the adoption of the Initiative, Referendum and Recall, and of proportional representation in all forms of public government; universal suffrage for both sexes, on the basis of one person, one vote; the transfer of taxes from improvements, and all products of labor, to land values, incomes and inheritances;

To advocate prison reform, including introduction of the honor and segregation systems, and abolition of contract labor; the enactment and rigid enforcement of child labor laws; pensions for mothers with dependent children; regulation of immigration to prevent lowering of industrial, political or social standards; development of the postal savings and parcel post systems; financial and other assistance to farmers through co-operative banks and by other means; government development of co-operative producing and trading associations for the benefit of the consumer;

To advocate extension of workmen's housing schemes and the labor bureau system; provision of technical education for every willing worker, according to his capacities; more effective inspection of buildings, factories, workshops and mines; minimum wages; a rest period of not less than a day and a half per week for every worker; government insurance of workers against sickness, injury and death; maternity benefits and old-age pensions; better Workmen's Compensation Acts; representation of the workers on all public boards and on boards for the supervision of private enterprises; union labor conditions in all government work; adequate pensions and opportunities for soldiers and their dependents;

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THE MARRIAGE TAX

A matter that will be raised in the debate in the Imperial Parliament on the Budget is that of the injustice of assessing the incomes of husband and wife together for the purposes of income tax. This practice, by reducing the exemption

limit considerably increases the tax both have to pay, and is in effect a tax upon marriage, since, by living together as unmarried persons, they would be assessed separately for income tax and pay on the lower scale. Thus, a man and a woman earning severally \$3,000 and \$2,500

Unholy Alliance Broken

WHATEVER we may think as to the manner in which it was done, we are sure that all who love purity in politics will rejoice at the rupture between Mr. Lloyd George and the newspaper king, Lord Northcliffe. The unholy alliance that has thus been severed was a shameful and a degrading thing. The freedom of the Press should be a sacred tradition, and we are jealous of any effort to suppress it; but the abuse of this freedom that has been so flagrant for these last four years, with its behind-the-scene intrigues, its cabals and plots, its calumnies, has been one of the most disgraceful episodes in recent history. We hardly dare to hope that the long-overdue repentance of one man, even though genuine, will bring all this pernicious influence to an end. Possibly his own downfall as a result of this rupture will be the next great political event to record; and, if so, it may be that, to his lasting honor, he will emerge from that experience a politician in whom we may once again place trust. But in any event the problem of preservation of the freedom of the Press and the prevention of its abuse will still be before us, and we fear that that problem will never be solved till the whole vast problem of the abuses of the power of capitalism has been solved. Even that problem may be nearer its solution than many yet suppose.

would, unmarried, pay a total tax of \$600; married, they pay \$1,030; the marriage tax therefore amounts in their case to over \$400. A determined effort will be made to get the law altered on the lines of the American system; though previous Chancellors of the Exchequers have declined to consider the proposition on the ground that it would mean a loss to the revenue of many millions of pounds. But women have the vote now, and these ingenuous reasons have not so much weight as they had formerly!

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jection to the landlord, but wish him the best of luck and health. He has the right to live as we have, but we do object to the way he gets his living. If all the landlords were put on one boat and the boat should sink at sea, it would perhaps be uncomfortable for you, for you would miss him at rent time, but time would overcome that. They are parasites like fleas.

Operation by State.

Mr. Classens talked of bankers, and scouted the theory of their brain power and usefulness, and said that if banks were found to be necessary the state could operate them for society. Bankers were not in business for their health, and in Oklahoma charged the farmers 70 per cent. on loans, so the farmers stayed poor. The banking problem would not be solved by Socialists walking into the banks and dividing in the money. Such things were done only by burglars and fools. The state would take them over if they were a necessity. The banker, too, was a perfectly good fellow, said Mr. Classens.

"I don't believe this nonsense about the banker being a crook and

the labor men poor but honest. It is nonsense. If the labor man had the chance to be an exploiter—and you have some—he would take it. It is a matter of chance."

Coming to the stockholder, the capitalist, he referred to the claim that the capitalist deserved what he got because of his superior brain and directing ability. He ridiculed this theory, pointing out that Mr. Rockefeller, Mr. Carnegie, Mr. Morgan and Mr. Astor could not give a demonstration of how they could make millions, but if it were a case of developing a coal mine would need engineers, more brains, superintendents, more directing ability, and then skilled and unskilled labor. They would have to appeal for help. When the Astor baby had been born it was worth \$3,000,000. The babe was five years old now, and the money had grown to about \$4,000,000, and when it was 21 it would be eight millions. What a brain that child had; what directing ability. Some child, some brain.

"And yet I will bet that child is just an ordinary kid and does not even know the difference between poker and pinochle," commented Mr. Classens.

SETTLEMENT

(An editorial from the Christian Science Monitor.)

"Nothing is more important at the moment than a clear declaration to the world that Great Britain has solved the problem of industrial unrest." So did Mr. J. H. Thomas, M.P., the well-known secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, sum up in London, recently, the situation, as he saw it, at what may well prove to be one of the most remarkable conferences in the history of the world's industry.

Few people would be inclined to disagree with him. When the signing of the armistice, last November, ended Labor, changed in circumstances and outlook past recognition, attention toward the United Kingdom.



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Here Labor, with its wonderful organization, its official party in Parliament, its almost notorious sanity and common sense, the anathema maranatha of the extremists of many international conferences, here Labor would surely be seen at its sanest. If that sanity leaned toward revolution, toward an indorsement of the extremist view, then there was nothing better to be hoped for from any other country.

For nearly two months, British Labor gave no sign, and then came from the sacred union into which it had entered with the rest of the country, on the outbreak of the great struggle, the world held its breath to see what would happen.

No one could justly appraise the factors; old theories, old stand-bys, old landmarks had been swept away. The Labor world was flooded, and had been flooded, for many months and even years, with the wildest theories and doctrines. One of the largest of the nations had been entirely subjugated by a new and revolutionary social theory, the advocates of which stood ready, sword in hand, to convert the world with all the thoroughness of a Twentieth Century Muhammad; whilst advocates of revolution and anarchy spread themselves everywhere through the underworld of Labor, seeking opportunity, or making it, to precipitate their purpose.

In these circumstances many thousands, and even millions, in various parts of the world turned their at the tremendous stand made at the general election. British Labor, whatever else it did or did not do,

repudiated bolshevism, utterly and finally. Still the matter was not settled. As the weeks passed into months, and rapid demobilization of army and factory swelled the ranks of Labor, strikes became more and more frequent, and demands for drastic changes were heard on all sides. In the dark days, toward the end of February, when the "Triple Alliance" of the miners, the railway men, and the transport workers, seemed to be heading for a general strike, with all its disastrous consequences; when men were refusing to obey their leaders, and proclaiming isolated strikes in different districts, all over the country; it did seem, for a time, as if the British workingman was going to fall before the storm after all.

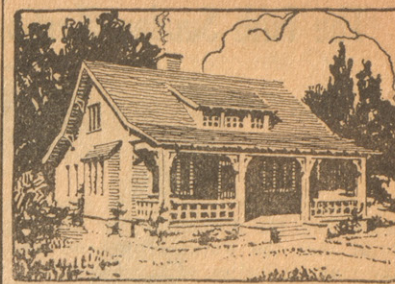
There was, however, no general strike. The desire for compromise and settlement won the day, and the great industrial ship of the country steadily moved into calmer waters. When, a few weeks ago, the delegates of the Joint Industrial Council, a council composed of representatives of Capital and Labor, met in the Central Hall, Westminster, to hear the report of their provisional joint committee, it was quite evident that the Labor of the country, using the phrase in its broadest sense, had safely attained a higher plane than ever before, that it had, in a word, solved the problem of Labor unrest.

The Labor leaders who spoke at that meeting, men like J. H. Thomas, Arthur Henderson, and Mr. Clynes, showed how clearly they recognized the tremendous importance of this achievement, not only for the United Kingdom, but for the rest of the world. They recognized better than any other men how near they had seemed to be to anarchy, and how much the example of their stand would mean to humanity.

But it is not only what British Labor has done that will help the world, but the way it did it. After each side had stated its case in committee, Mr. Arthur Henderson declared at the London meeting, however forcibly it was expressed in the first instance, they found eventually the same spirit which had characterized the Nation during the war.

There was a manifest desire, on both sides, to regard themselves as trustees of industry. It was no longer even the case of employers and employed only. It was recognized that there was a third party whose interests could not be ignored, and that third party was the community as a whole.

And so it was determined not to press the claims of either party to extremes, but to lay down, if possible, general fundamentals, in the hope that those fundamentals would be applied in the spirit of good will, and with a desire for common action, with the wish to co-operate one with another, in order that the state interests might not suffer by the rivalries that, far too often, had characterized the pressure of the claims on one side or another, in days gone by.



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From this high ground the situation has never retrograded. And so the provisional joint committee continues to hold its meetings in London, making reports, from time to time, to the government, and finding the government, at every turn, ready and eager to give legal sanction to its proposals, wherever feasible, and that at the earliest possible moment.

Thus, recent dispatches from London tell of the government's acceptance, in essence, of the committee's recommendations as to fixing of maximum hours and minimum wages, agreeing to appoint a commission to deal with the whole matter, and welcoming the proposal of the committee to set up the joint national council as a permanent body to assist the government in the work of improving industrial conditions.

"We live near to great and wonderful deeds," declared Sir Robert Hone, the Labor Minister, at the close of the great meeting in London. "We have an example in those who fought and died in order that this country might be preserved. It is for us to make the country worthy of their sacrifices, to be ourselves worthy of them in our turn." Such views as these, and those of the other leaders, have a world message, and are indeed the basis and essence of true settlement.

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The WOMAN'S FORUM

Rose Henderson *BLIND TO EVERYTHING - BUT THE TRUTH*

Democracy For Children

Adapted from an article by Dr. Emmett Holt,
(Good Housekeeping Magazine, May, 1919.)

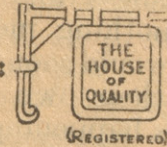
Our democracy, if it means anything, means a fair start of life for every Canadian child. But there can be no fair start, no equality of opportunity, without health as a foundation. Every Canadian child, by very virtue of his Canadianism is entitled to health protection and guidance during his growing years, so that he may meet adult life and adult responsibilities with joy and courage. Every Canadian child is entitled, during his years of growth, to certain minimum essentials of healthy development, such as good food, long hours of play and sleep in the fresh air, and freedom from worry and premature responsibility of earning a living. To be a Canadian child should be a patent of nobility, insuring the best possible physical start in life. It should guarantee a strong, healthy body developed to its highest possibilities of beauty and vigor. Canadian children already have compulsory training of mind, but they need, as an even more fundamental essential, compulsory training of the body in health habits. Only so can they be qualified for the enjoyment of that "life, liberty and pursuit of happiness."

Theoretically, we all admit this. Practically, we acquiesce dumbly in many conditions which warp and stunt the lives of little children. But a new public conscience in health matters is awakening. We are undergoing a great national revival in the conservation of child life. The same patriotism which sent Canadian men to die for a democratic ideal is to-day demanding that Canadian children be given an opportunity to live out the ideal.

There is a demand for memorials to commemorate the lives of the boys who went forth, but who will never come back. The memorial which we suggest for these men is not of brick and stone and mortar, but of flesh and blood and spirit—a living memorial. It is one thing which cannot be weighed and measured, because it is boundless, because it is composed of millions upon millions of lives of little children—young lives that will be fuller, and freer, and more joyous and wholesome than they would have been had we not suddenly been awakened through the war to their precious quality. We propose a great Child Health movement, which shall set a new standard of health for

Canadian children. What more fitting memorial could there be for our heroes than that by their deaths they should lift into health countless lives that would otherwise be stunted!

Every child has a right to be as healthy as present knowledge can make him. Intelligent parents are demanding for their own children the very best care which science has formulated; the new patriotism demands that we square our theory and our practice in matters of child health, that we require the same standards or care for all children as for our own. During the war we learned that patriotism meant more than cheering when the flag went by, or when a column of boys in khaki marched down the street; more than being active in civic life and politics when our business interests profited thereby; more than engaging in social or war work during our spare moments provided such work would put us into the limelight and redound to our personal glory. We learned that patriotism meant earnest, self-sacrificing, whole-hearted endeavor for the good of the whole. We forgot that those others whom we were serving were not of our own family. We became one great Canadian family. Any man in uniform on the street was, in some sense, "our boy". Now let us continue to act in this spirit—to feel that the children on the street are **our children**—that it is our business what those child-



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ren eat, how they sleep, and where they play. Under the new order no Canadian child is the property of his parents alone; he is the child of all. And a healthy body is the first fundamental of his birthright.

SAYS LANDLORDS AS USEFUL AS FLEAS

Still Socialists Do Not Hate Them
Even If Love Is Lacking.

Landlordism was about as useful as fleas on a dog, was the description of that institution given by August Classens, of New York, in addressing a meeting at Montreal last week. The lecture was on capitalism, and the landlord, banker and stockholder were successively dealt with.

"Capitalism is the state of society in which we live. It has not always been, being only 300 or 400 years old. It is ready to die, and these meetings are funeral services, and we are organizing grave diggers. The corpse is here and smells very badly and requires speedy burial, but as it

is a big corpse we will need a large number of undertakers." It was not a question of choice which made the two classes in society, and 999 chances out of a thousand it was a matter of where the stork left the baby. It was said that those who lived in the fashionable neighborhoods had become rich for being extremely useful. They were landlords, bankers and stockholders. How were they useful to humanity? Under socialism there was no objection to having a man own the land which he himself worked, or the land on which his house was built, but owning more meant exploitation, whether it was rented to some one else, or some one else was hired to work it.

Are Not Bloodthirsty

He talked the Single Tax theories at some length, and added: "We Socialists are not so bloodthirsty a people and are not going to get up some fine morning and kick the landlords off. There are many ways by which the change will be made. The land values of Canada will go into the hands of the people. It may be by purchase, by confiscation, or some other way, but it will come when we are strong enough to bring it about. I have nothing against the landlord. He is not more dishonest than the workman. It is not a personal quarrel, and some of the landlords are Socialists themselves, and if you have land, it does not mean that you cannot be a Socialist. You cannot bring about a state of Socialism by giving your land up. Who will you give it to? Tolstoi tried it. The workers who get it will sell it to others, and the same thing will go on over again. Society must decide it. One is a fool to hate the landlord. You cannot love him, but the landlord and the exploited are products of the same system. We do not look on landlords and capitalists with hatred. We have no ob-



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The Trouble In Winnipeg

THE wise old ladies of both sexes who were sure that the restlessness and rumblings in this country were nothing more than a passing phase, and that things would soon "return to normal," are, let us hope, for their own sakes, having their eyes opened by what is happening in Winnipeg.

There is no "normal" in the social fabric to which any part of the civilized world will ever return. The demand for social change, expressed in a better, fuller, happier life for the mass of the people — a fairer distribution of the world's benefits — is universal, insistent and determined. Those who would, deliberately or blindly, try to block that change are merely pitching pebbles before a Tank.

Unrest is dangerous when it reaches the point where 30,000 workers quit work for a principle. It requires considerable courage for breadwinners to stake the loss of wages against a principle, and indicates how deep-seated is the trouble with society as at present constituted, how important the need of change seems to the worker, how grim is the worker's earnestness to bring about a change, and how essential it is to meet that change half-way at least, lest worse befall.

We are passing through a time of tension more serious than during the war, a time of popular discontent such as this country has never seen, and which has not yet reached the climax of its expression. We are on the eve of the birth of a new social era. Time-honored institutions are going to be measured for what they are worth to the people, not because they are time-honored. Tradition is not worth a snap of the fingers if it interferes with the way to national happiness. Precedent is something for a museum. Conservatism is, in effect, reactionary. The "law of supply and demand" is as variable as the weather. The political economists are up a tree. The professional politicians and the pull and patronage experts are finding that the old strings won't work, though most of them do not yet see the reason why, because they have not been accustomed to think in terms of service to their fellow-men. The "social set" is a joke, and may prove a tragedy to its less cautious members. The whole system of society is in the melting pot.

Nothing can be measured to-day except in terms of human happiness. Let us have that measure from everyone — it is coming, freely from some quarters, grudgingly from others, by force from others — and troubles such as Winnipeg has had will cease.

There is no other way.

THE COST OF LIVING

(Continued from page 1.)

his farm and the answer will be surprising.

The truth is that there is a great superabundance of food

to feed Canadians well, but those who get in control of it produce an artificial shortage by sending it to the four corners of the globe where they secure high prices for it after creating famine prices in the very country which is the basis of pro-

duction. The law of supply and demand as far as Canada is concerned has absolutely nothing to do with the situation. The cold storage plant is the convenient medium through which the operation is made possible. The increased cost of labor is not important as a factor. In terms of dollars and cents, even where the workman is securing double the wages he did before the war, the dollar that he receives only purchases about 40c. worth of goods. The worker is in reality in a much worse position than he was in 1914.

The combinations or profiteers, as we call them, have very evidently analyzed the situation something like this: The poor devil who has no work, and there are thousands upon thousands of them, has no money and therefore cannot buy food at any price, so why reduce the price; but the man who is working and who is receiving high wages will buy at any price, so the essential thing to do is to boost the price.

In the meanwhile the people are becoming increasingly restless, so the government statisticians begin to compile figures. Anybody knows what the government expert can do with figures, but it must be remembered that these same experts were all agreed that the war could not last six months on the basis that it could not be financed for six months.

We are not particularly interested that there are so many pounds of food in cold storage and that careful investigation discloses that there are only one and a half pounds of butter per person in Canada. What we do want to know is what has become of all the food produced by Canadian farmers, who are getting it, and what are they paying for it? Then we want definite assurance that at least sufficient food will be kept in the country to furnish our people with the necessities of life, and finally we make this assertion, that any three men given full authority, free from political interference, wire pulling and commercial influence can effectively control the prices and the commodities in Canada within thirty days from date of their appointment.

The question of the hour is food control and a reduction of the cost of living. Either our government officials will take hold of this situation and bring relief to a people who are slowly but surely starving to death, or the masses will take the matter into their own hands, and

there will be a reduction and a levelling out that will not only shatter the prices of food but annihilate the whole system of producing for profit.

The people feel, and they feel rightly, that when they work and struggle and suffer for the upbuilding and development of a country, and when they give their children in defence of it, they are entitled to food, clothing, shelter, and some leisure to enjoy them and unless the executive brains of the country, our politicians and our so-called experts on food statistics, get very busy, the lightning flashes that illumine our sky at the present writing will be followed by a thunderclap that will shatter to fragments the cut glass on the sumptuous table while men are wining and dining, drinking and toasting, to the long life and continuance of the profits of profiteering.

HEALTH OF THE CHILD and NATIONAL WELFARE

Preaching at Christ Church Cathedral, Montreal, on "Baby Welfare; the Child and the Nation", Rev. Dr. Symonds took the prediction of Zachariah, "And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls" and spoke of the period of reconstruction of that date after the invasion of the Holy City, and the present period of reconstruction. He uttered a warning against placing too much stress on the material reconstruction and neglecting to build on a foundation of righteousness and national morality. The supreme end of government was the welfare of men and women, and of the nation as a whole and in that the proper beginning was with the child.

Dr. Symonds, in the course of his sermon, commented on the scanty assistance given by the Provincial Government to public health projects and efforts. Out of a total expenditure of twelve million dollars, only thirty-six thousand dollars was spent on health matters. The vicar urged that public health was closely bound up with the national welfare and that in the days lying before us a greater proportion of the national wealth must be directed towards the turning out of first class men and women, and of a nation which would be healthier, better off and have more happiness. For this reason he appealed on behalf of the work being done on behalf of child welfare.

EDITORIALS

GEORGE PIERCE - EDITOR

THE CONVENTION

SOME thought should be given to the idea of a national convention of all the people, the manufacturers, the workingmen and the unorganized public, as outlined in our last issue. In the opinion of leaders of the three great branches in which we have classified them, there is very much in it that will recommend it for your close study and analysis. It is quite true that there are obstacles and objections that may be brought forward and sustained by very practical argument, but it is equally true that if such a convention could be organized it is very probable that it would bear the richest fruit. When its advantages are carefully weighed against the factors that make for disadvantage, we believe that sound analysis will demonstrate that there is much to be won and very little to be lost by a conference or convention of the type which we propose.

After all it is simply a nationalization of the Whitley Report. Under the Whitley system, conferences between capital and labor would be continuous. In England, where the Whitley Report has been put into operation, it is useless to deny that remarkable results have been obtained. It has been wonderfully successful in attuning employer and manufacturer with relation to given unity in industry, but it would be many years before its influence would be felt nationally. If the Whitley Report became operative in every unit of industry so that the national trades parliament would become operative, the result might be obtained of effecting a workable plan which would satisfy the industrial and social elements involved. The great objection is the time before this development could possibly take place.

We bring forward the idea of a convention not as a substitute for the Whitley idea, but as a direct aid to give impetus to the Whitley plan.

Any objections which we have at present received are based upon the idea that the convention might be controlled by a powerful group to the detriment of the co-operating groups, and, secondly, fear of a failure at co-operation in the convention which would further widen the breach and cause even greater distress between the contending elements than exists at present. The advantage which would be obtained from a successful convention would be:—

1st.—Goodwill and the re-establishment of confidence. All problems of a distressing nature would be considered as a common affliction, requiring the united and determined efforts of all classes represented to seek and put into effect a practical remedy.

2nd.—The difficulties and distresses of each group would be made known to the other co-operating groups, eliminating all possibility of unjust or ill-advised demands because the limitations of each would be thoroughly understood.

3rd.—The probability that an "armistice" might be arranged between the three contending groups so that no greater prices for material or manufactured product would be made, no greater advances in labor costs occur excepting in instances where no advances have been received by the worker enabling him to meet the cost of living, the design of the armistice under the co-operation of the three groups to be an onslaught on the ever-mounting prices now affixed to life necessities, and to lay the basis and groundwork for a period of reconstruction which will ensure happiness and comfort to all the people, which would have a tendency to give the manufacturer accurate knowledge as to the future costs of labor and material so that he might within the commercial risks undertake the fulfilment of contracts, which in turn would give employment to labor at prevailing rates. By close co-ordination between the three groups the cost of living, would be automatically, materially and steadily decreased.

4th.—By consolidating our aims and objects and our national aspirations and presenting them in contrast with those of the contending elements at the convention, action and fixed policies would be the result as opposed to procrastination and misunderstanding, the inevitable development when the manufacturers meet in one convention and decide upon a policy which may clash vitally when the labor groups meet at another convention at another period with changing problems under consideration, and formulate a policy, while the general public, inarticulate except through its political expression, immediately becomes the victim of the efforts of both factions who are bent upon determining policies with no regard to the peculiar problems which may be affecting any one of the groups.

It is certainly a fact that in the end in contradiction to the old way, as we are now doing, whether we will it or not, we must co-operate and co-ordinate, and any plans that we make to the contrary are simply dashed to pieces by practical experience and harsh adventures whenever we aim to proceed in our pursuits from our own individual viewpoints without due regard for others. Our view is simply this: why not consult and collaborate at one time, at one place and for one purpose, which is to bring happiness, peace and prosperity to ourselves and to all the people. Please write us your view of such a convention and give your address so that we may have the opportunity of replying and debating the matter with you.

Title Flummery Gets A Bump

Parliamentary Committee Adopts Report Asking For Abolition In Canada of Titular Distinction.

If the report of the Parliamentary Committee on Titles, summarized on this page, is adopted, as it probably will be, because the antiquarians at Ottawa are beginning to sitr uneasily in their slumbers, the title business will soon be on the scrap-heap so far as Canada is concerned, and some social climbers of both sexes will be dreadfully disappointed.

Two different looks at the title topic are seen in the cartoons on this page. Each is interesting and furnishes a special line of thought more or less important.

One could wish that the Committee on Titles had gone a little further when it was at it and recommended the cutting out of that line of old stuff about "His Most Excellent Majesty", "Most Gracious Sovereign", "humbly approaching" and "praying that Your Majesty may be graciously pleased". King George is a real man and a real sailor. It must give him a pain in his brain to have that sort of phraseology constantly fired at him for no adequate reason.

REPORT OF TITLES

COMMITTEE ISSUED

The committee of the House of Commons, which has been considering the matter of titles, at its final meeting on May 16, adopted a report which was drafted by a sub-committee and embodies the findings of the special committee at previous sittings in regard to titular distinctions. The sub-committee recommends that an address should be presented to His Majesty the King asking him to refrain from conferring any titular distinction upon British subjects resident in Canada, save such appellations as are of a professional or vocational character. No objection is taken in the report to the titles "right honorable" and "honorable", and it is recommended that the awarding of medals for military service be not discontinued.

There were thirteen members of the committee in attendance when

the sub-committee, which consisted of Hon. W. S. Fielding, A. R. MacMaster, W. F. Cockshutt, and Dr. Whidden, made its report.

Mr. Fielding, while expressing himself as in accord with the finding of the committee in regard to hereditary titles, and to a considerable degree in favor of the abolition of knighthoods, said he was not so strongly in favor of the remainder of the report and would feel free to voice his opinions when the matter comes up in the House. The report was as follows:

"Your committee are of the opinion and recommend that an address be presented to His Most Excellent Majesty the King, in the following words:

"To the King's Most Excellent Majesty.

"Most Gracious Sovereign,

"We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the House of Commons of Canada in parliament assembled, humbly approach Your

TITLES, OR A PEEP INTO THE FUTURE OF SUPER-DEMOCRATIC CANADA



Montreal Daily Star.

Majesty, praying that Your Majesty may be graciously pleased:

"A. To refrain hereafter from conferring any title of honor or titular distinction upon any of your subjects domiciled or ordinarily resident in Canada, save such appellations as are of a professional or vocational character or which appertain to an office.

"B. To provide that appropriate action be taken by legislation or

otherwise to ensure the extinction on the death of a person domiciled or ordinarily resident in Canada at present in enjoyment of an hereditary title of honor or titular distinction, dignity or title as a peer of the realm, and that thereafter no such title of honor, titular distinction, dignity or title as a peer of the realm, shall be accepted, enjoyed or used by such person or be recognized.

"All of which we humbly pray Your Majesty to take into your favorable and gracious consideration."

"A suggestion was made that the titles of "right honorable" and "honorable" be discontinued, but the suggestion did not meet with the approval of the committee.

"Your committee, however, do not recommend the discontinuance of the practice of awarding military or naval decorations, such as the Victoria Cross, Military Medal, Military Cross, Distinguished Service Cross and similar decorations to persons in military or naval services of Canada for exceptional valor and devotion to duty.

"Your committee further recommends that appropriate action be taken by legislation or otherwise to provide that hereafter no person domiciled or ordinarily resident in Canada shall accept, enjoy or use any titles of honor or titular distinction hereafter conferred by a foreign ruler or government."



THE QUEUE OF HONOR

So many titles have been flying about lately that the "Bulletin" is expecting to hear of a sort of bread-ticket system of distribution. (Sydney Bulletin.)

SLANG OF THE TRAINMEN

The talk of trainmen is about as rich in picturesque slang as any in this land of free and fancy speech. A collection of these expressions is being made by the "Railroad Man's Magazine" and is reaching astonishing proportions. Some of the lingo can be understood even by the outsider. A "side door Pullman", for instance, is a rather common way of referring to a box car. But most of the phrases are Greek to the uninitiated. "Taking her by the neck", for example, is used when an engine is made to pull a heavy "drag" up a steep hill or around a sharp curve.

Once at the top of the grade the "hogger" just "lets her drift". "Plugging her" is an old term, used when the throttle is closed by a quick motion of the left hand while at the same time the reverse lever is thrown back with the right hand. This is not calculated to do any good to the engine frames and cylinders and is resorted to only in great emergencies. It isn't so common since the introduction of automatic air.

An old boxcar or a small building occupied as the yardmaster's office is known as the "doghouse". It is sometimes used to indicate the small fourwheeled caboose used by the roads at the tail end of freight trains. This is also called the "hut", "crummie", "crum box" or "cage".

"Hitting the grit" is what no trainman ever likes to do, but he sometimes has to when a train is running at full speed and his only chance of not being caught in a wreck is to jump. "Getting her down in the corner" is setting the reverse lever down in the lowest forward notch of the quadrant so that the engine has the full length of the stroke.

"Patting her on the back" is an expression used when the reverse lever is down in the corner and is gradually hooked up notch by notch on the quadrant as the saturated steam is worked off. "Making her pop" is to maintain a fire so that the instant the engine stops working she blows off.

To "keep her hot" is to maintain a fire of steady heat, thus furnishing all the dry steam needed, no matter how hard the engine may be working or regardless of the condition of the weather. As every trainman knows, the weather often

tests the mettle of a "diamond pusher" on hard runs with a heavy drag of "rattlers".

A thin plume of dry steam escaping from the top is "carrying a white feather." This usually occurs after an engine has been working hard and the condition of roadbed and gradient permits of the engineer easing her off a little.

When an engine has to haul a particularly heavy load a steep grade it is often necessary to "pound her". The engineer gets over the hill with her, but is apt to strain the engine in so doing. Working an engine to full capacity after she has been reported for light repairs which have not been given her or working an engine to a higher limit than her builders designed is also called "pounding her".

A "dead engine" is one without fire. Steam is sometimes known as "fog". The conductor of the switching crew is the "drummer," and the brakemen are "shacks," "car catchers," "fielders" or "ground hogs." The yard master is frequently known as a "switch hog" and sometimes as the "big switch hog," and the yardmaster's office is the "knowledge box", and the yard clerk is the "number grabber". Switching cars is "shaking 'em out."

A new fireman or brakeman is a

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"student". A "boomer" in the strictest sense of the term is a man who stays only about one pay day on a division. A locomotive engineer is known as a "hoghead," a "hogger," "eagle eye," throttle puller," "runner" or "engine-man".

A locomotive is called a "mill," "kettle," "scrap heap," "junk pile," and frequently and familiarly referred to as the "old girl." A fireman is known as a "tallow pot", a "diamond dealer," "diamond pusher," and in this day sometimes as a "stoker".

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Freight brakemen "shacks", "strong", "brakies," "dope artists." "Vans" are passenger coaches. "Gondola" is a gondola or coal car. "Gon" is sometimes called a "lebelly" or a "battleship". A refrigerator car is a "reefer".

The "running board" or "path" is made up of the two three boards or planks running lengthwise on the "deck" or roof of a box car. The floor of an engine cab or tender is also called the "deck". "Decking" or "decorating" means that the trainmen are riding on the roof.

The heaviest type of a consolidation engine is known as a "battleship," the lighter type of consolidation is called a "hog". Although the term "hog" is generally applied to all engine nowadays, in the strictest sense of railroad language it should be used only when referring to locomotives of consolidation type.

A car that is disabled or broken is a "cripple". Car inspectors are known as "car tinks" and "knockers." An overheated bearing box or brass is what constitutes a "hot box", and the oiled waste used to repack it is "dope." The pay car is commonly called the "pay wagon" or "band wagon" and is frequently more familiarly known as the "family disturber." The injector of an engine is the "gun". The blower is the "fireman's friend."

—

A DENTIST'S EPITAPH

View this grave with gravity,
He's filling his last cavity.

—Princeton Tiger.

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"We must either work together as affectionate brothers, acknowledging a social conscience, or we must see civilization torn in pieces by contending factions. Only the religion of brotherhood, one with Fatherhood, can save the world."—Harold Begbie.

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